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metroNEWS

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Too risky a remedy

ADDICTION

Authority calls for new drug in place of methadone

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health is making dramatic changes to how it treats opioid addictions after seeing too many overdose deaths caused by methadone, the drug that has been the go-to treatment for decades.

The health authority announced Tuesday it will introduce new guidelines to steer away from methadone and toward Suboxone, a much safer drug that is now available as a generic and covered under regular provincial health plans.

"It's not to say methadone isn't an effective treatment, but we are struggling with too many fatal overdoses," medical director Dr. Evan Wood said, adding that one quarter of recent overdose deaths have been linked to methadone.

As it stands, methadone is offered in 90 per cent of cases, whether a person is addicted to illicit drugs such as heroin or over-the-counter prescription drugs such as oxycodone, Wood said. But Vancouver Coastal Health wants to use methadone only in extreme cases in which nothing else works.

"Essentially we're looking to dramatically modernize the addiction treatment system in terms of moving ahead in practice with where the evidence has taken us," said Wood. "Practice has got to do some catching up."

Wood praised the province for its leadership. The guidelines are part of a $3-million investment to research ways to treat substance dependence.

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Cartoonists get a new face to draw. **Canada**

Province won't act on Chinese buyers report

REAL ESTATE

'Homemakers' buying many high-end homes on west side

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

The province has no plans to immediately act on a new report that revealed the impact of Chinese buyers on Vancouver's expensive west side real estate market.

B.C. politicians reacted Monday to research released by Bing Thom Architects urban planner Andy Yan, whose analysis of the 172 single-family homes sold over six months in the city's ritziest neighbourhoods for a combined $520 million found that people with non-Anglicized Chinese names bought two thirds of the homes.

Homemaker was the top occupation listed by buyers of these luxury homes worth more than $1.5 million.

The case study provides some data on the controversial question of whether foreign buyers are parking cash in real estate and pushing locals out of the market.

But B.C. Finance Minister Mike de Jong questioned the data. Premier Christy Clark has previously estimated that foreign buyers account for only five per cent of real estate transactions.

A house that sold in Vancouver's heated real estate market. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

"We've got to be a little bit careful on the conclusions we draw," de Jong said, noting its small sample size.

While there's an opportunity to share information between governments to get a more complete picture, he said, B.C. won't decide until budget time whether it will act to cool the market with something like a higher property transfer tax on luxury properties.

> **We've got to be a little bit careful on the conclusions we draw.**
> Finance Minister Mike de Jong

NDP MLA David Eby, who helped Yan get the data, acknowledged the flaws with the case study, especially using names to determine where a person is from. But Eby said the province has refused to release more accurate data it already collects.

He wants the province to start learning from other cities impacted by global wealth such as Sydney and London.

"Instead of doing that, our province is insisting there's absolutely nothing to see here and everyone should just move along," Eby said, adding the absence of data leads to speculation fuelled by racism.

Yan agrees that the province needs to show leadership and hand over more data so people can have an educated discussion.

In the meantime, his study followed best practices using the best data available.

He was surprised to find 82 per cent of homes were mortgaged, countering the perception that people are coming off airplanes and paying for houses with cash. Instead, it points to a sophisticated credit system.

He was also surprised to see how many students and homemakers bought luxury homes.

"The implicit issue is whether wages versus wealth is determining the real estate market," he said.

$520M

The total worth of the 172 homes in the study. Two-thirds of those homes were purchased by people with Chinese names.

GOVERNMENT EMAILS

Review to cost $50,000

A former privacy commissioner will be paid $50,000 to tell the B.C. government how best to implement recommendations in a stinging report that said officials — including those in the premier's office — routinely deleted information.

Technology Minister Amrik Virk said Monday David Loukidelis has until Dec. 15 to complete a report that advises the government on addressing 11 recommendations and five findings made by Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham. Her report highlighted a failure by the government to keep adequate email records or document searches, and the wilful destruction of records in response to a freedom-of-information request.

The report was prompted by Tim Duncan, who said his supervisor deleted potentially sensitive emails about the Highway of Tears investigation into murdered and missing women.

The Opposition New Democrats have targeted the government's information practices since the release of Denham's report, saying it exposes a culture of deception that includes tactics of mass deletion of potentially sensitive emails.

Denham's report said high-ranking officials in the premier's office were found to have no email records during freedom-of-information requests and attempts to obtain Premier Christy Clark's email records also found nothing on her email account.

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The hepatitis C medication, Sovaldi. It cures the liver-wasting disease in nine of 10 patients. GILEAD SCIENCES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hep C patients need more than medication

STUDY

Holistic approach makes the difference

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Using only medication to treat hepatitis C patients who inject illegal drugs is ineffective without also addressing the complex social issues they face, a new study from the University of Victoria suggests.

Although new hepatitis C drugs can cure the liver-wasting disease in most patients, new research suggests the treatment does little to help patients who inject drugs, some of society's most vulnerable citizens who are also the most challenging to help.

"There's quite a bit of attention to medical advances (in hepatitis C treatment), but it doesn't really impact the people most affected (by hepatitis C)," said Bruce Wallace, co-author of the study and an assistant professor at UVic's School of Social Work.

"People are being excluded from access to treatment and it is the people who need it the most."

For the study, researchers looked at the model used at the Cool Aid Community Health Clinic in Victoria, B.C., which offers both clinical treatment as well as support systems like on-site pharmacy and nutritionists for patients struggling with poverty, substance use or mental-health problems.

"It's all about one-stop shop," said Wallace. "One of the significant issues is, because people who are injecting drugs face criminalization and marginalization, any referrals out to other parts of the health-care system can be a break in the continuum of care."

Researchers found that after the clinic launched a multi-disciplinary model, the number of patients who tested for hepatitis C and also stuck with their treatment plans more than doubled.

Wallace said the study's findings highlight the need for public investment in primary care combined with support systems to address social barriers that affect treatment access.

"An investment in this sort of model where you can go through the whole treatment in one setting, so you can actually go from testing to diagnosis to care all in one setting, is what really will improve the outcomes," he said.

The study was published last month in the International Journal on Drug Policy.

CRIME

Police believe same thief behind four purse snatchings in Chinatown

Police suspect the same man is responsible for four purse snatchings over five days that appear to be targeting older Asian women in Vancouver's Chinatown neighbourhood.

In all four cases, police said the victims were walking when a man approached them from behind and shoved them to the ground before running off with their purses.

Investigators believe the victims, who were all older Asian women, were targeted because of their age, sex and ethnicity.

The first robbery happened early in the evening on Oct. 28 when a man allegedly approached an 80-year-old woman, who was walking in the 200-block of East Pender Street, pushed her to the ground and took off with her purse. The woman suffered a minor injury to her knee and was treated by paramedics.

Early Saturday evening, a 91-year-old woman was walking in the 500-block of Main Street when a man came up behind her and violently tore her purse from her shoulder, knocking her to the ground, according to police. She also suffered a minor knee injury and was taken to hospital.

Only 15 minutes later, an 81-year-old woman was attacked in the 600-block of Jackson Street. Police said the senior ran after the alleged thief but lost him.

The most recent incident happened Sunday evening, involving a 59-year-old woman in the area of Gore and East Cordova Street. She was uninjured.

In each case, police said the suspect was described as a white man in his 20s and six-foot-tall with a slim build. He was wearing blue jeans and a dark jacket.

Police are warning women in the area to be aware of their surroundings and, if possible, to conceal their purses.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

SCOTCH

Liquor store set to sell $36,000 bottle

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouverites who fancy themselves scotch connoisseurs will have the chance to buy a $36,000 bottle of scotch this weekend.

Sure, the price tag is what the average resident would pay for two years of rent in a one-bedroom apartment or half a typical family's annual income, but this 50-year-old bottle of Glenfiddich Highland Scotch is one of only 50 bottles in the world.

It goes for sale at the B.C. Liquor Stores annual spirit release day on Saturday, where the provincial liquor distributor expects long lines of people waiting to buy hard-to-get booze.

"If you can afford a $10-million house you can afford a $36,000 bottle of liquor," B.C. Liquor Distribution Branch merchandising director Bill Michael said Monday. "It's who buys the Bentleys."

It's not even the most expensive bottle ever sold in B.C., with a bottle of The Dalmore Constellation, a 46-year-old single malt scotch whisky, selling for $37,086.99 in previous years.

But this particular bottle is so expensive because it costs a lot of money to hold onto something for 50 years, Michael explained.

Every year, the liquid in the cask evaporates, leaving a more concentrated, rare liquid. It also comes in a fancy bottle (hand blown, with thick glass) and a nice box.

If $36,000 is a bit rich for your taste, there are a variety of bottles in the $1,000 to $5,500 range. And there are even more bottles in the $100 range for us plebs that can't afford to drop thousands for a stiff drink.

Indeed, many of the people expected to line up for the sale are younger aficionados that learn about premium spirits on the Internet, Michael said.

Japanese whiskey is hot right now, and everyone from hipsters to older men is expected to line up for it. Last year, one man started waiting on Thursday for the Saturday sale.

Doors open Saturday morning at the B.C. liquor store at 39th Avenue and Cambie.

This 50-year-old bottle of Glenfiddich Highland Scotch is on sale for $36,000. CONTRIBUTED

Ski resorts hopeful for big snow season

FORECAST

El Nino may withhold white stuff again this year

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

An early dusting of snow on the North Shore Mountains has local ski resort operators hopeful for white peaks this winter.

But an Environment Canada meteorologist is cautioning that a strong El Nino winter could mean a return of last year's dry and green conditions.

About 15 centimetres of snow blanketed the top of Cypress Mountain on Sunday, while Grouse Mountain reported receiving about five centimetres of snow. Over at Manning Park Resort, staff reported a sprinkling of four centimetres of the white stuff, while nearby Whistler-Blackcomb saw a generous 30 centimetres on Sunday.

"It's a good sign that we're seeing some snow," Cypress spokesman Joffrey Koeman told Metro. "Last year was kind of that hundred-year anomaly that we've never really seen before ... but we're looking at a more normal season this year."

With the right conditions, Koeman said Cypress could open to the public "any day now." He said the earliest the resort has opened in the past was Nov. 7.

If Mother Nature falls flat, he said the resort also invested $500,000 in snow-making equipment to compensate for any shortages of natural snow.

But with predictions of a strong El Nino winter, Greg Pearce, forecaster for Environment Canada, warned ski resort operators' hopes for a snowy season could be dashed.

He said B.C.'s south coast is expected to face a 65 to 75 per cent chance of a warmer than normal winter due to the El Nino.

El Nino refers to warm waters that form off the coast of Peru affecting the location of the jet stream, which results in drier than normal winters for this region, he said.

> **"It's always going to be up to the weather gods"**
> Cypress Mountain spokesman Joffrey Koeman

"What that means for snowfall, in theory, is that it will be a little bit less than the normal," said Pearce. "It just depends on how things happen with individual storms as they come in and where the freezing level is at the time."

Despite the forecast, Koeman said Cypress Mountain operators are still hopeful for a strong snow season.

During the last strong El Nino season in 1997-1998, he said the resort saw about 10 per cent lower than average snowfall.

Even without snow-making equipment at the time, he said the resort operated for 127 days. During an average season, Cypress is open between 110 and 120 days.

A ruler reveals 15 centimetres of fresh snowfall on top of Cypress Mountain on Monday. COURTESY CYPRESS MOUNTAIN

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Man jailed for biting in custody

KAMLOOPS

Matthew Hein has underwent 61 convictions since 2002

A Kamloops man who fought a sheriff, threatened a Crown witness and bit a corrections officer in the forearm will spend the next 12 months behind bars.

Matthew Hein pleaded guilty to three charges: two counts of assaulting a peace officer and one of attempting to pervert justice. Hein, 28, has been in custody on unrelated matters since last year.

Provincial court heard that at a March 16 appearance, he threatened a witness to a robbery charge he was facing.

"When Mr. Hein came into the prisoner's box, he looked directly at (the witness) and drew his thumb across his throat," Crown prosecutor Kurt Froelick said. "This was witnessed by the Crown prosecutor and numerous other people in the courtroom."

Later the same day, sheriffs entered Hein's cell in the courthouse basement to shackle him for another court appearance.

Froelick said Hein refused to be shackled.

"He yelled, 'Let's go,'" Froelick said. "Mr. Hein then took a fighting stance and clenched his fists."

Froelick said a sheriff punched Hein in the head. Hein responded by throwing numerous punches at the sheriff. He was eventually restrained and taken to court.

On April 25, Hein was being housed in the segregation unit of Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre following an incident the previous day. Corrections officers asked if they could enter his cell to shackle him to take him to get his diabetes medication.

Hein said the officers could come in, but he resisted when they started to shackle him.

"There was a struggle during which Mr. Hein bit the right forearm of (a corrections officer)," Froelick said. "Mr. Hein did not release his bite until corrections officers pepper sprayed him."

Court heard the corrections officer was left bleeding and received treatment in hospital. He missed 30 days of work due to the injury.

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IN BRIEF

Psych report delayed for mother charged with murdering newborn baby

A British Columbia judge has given a psychiatrist another month to finish a report on a woman charged with killing her newborn baby.

Courtney Saul did not appear in court Monday as lawyers asked for more time for the report to be completed.

Twenty-three-year-old Saul was charged with second-degree murder earlier this year following an investigation into the death of her son George Saul.

The Crown alleges the baby was killed a few hours after he was born on Dec. 11, 2011.

Last month, a provincial court judge ordered a psychiatric assessment for Saul, who is not in custody.

She is expected back in court on Dec. 3, by which time it is anticipated the judge will have read the completed report.

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A lost ring and a happy ending

ENGAGEMENT

Butterfingers moment leaves couple frantic on Tofino beach

He knew he was going to get down on bended knee to propose to the love of his life, but Darrin Reimer didn't know he and his bride-to-be would soon both be on their knees furiously searching the beach for a lost engagement ring.

Reimer and Caitlin McAuley have a true-love story that started with a poem, a marriage proposal and a ring on a Tofino beach. But in an instant, things turned frantic when the engagement ring accidentally fell to the beach.

It was dark, and the tide was rolling in.

But don't worry: there is a happy ending.

"I can't believe I did that," said Caitlin McAuley, 27, who said yes — but then "Oh no!" moments later, when she felt the engagement ring slip off her finger and vanish into the night.

"My hand was wet from the rain, and I moved and looked off and I knew it right away," she said. "We were trying to find it in the dark and it was raining. We got some flashlights and we were back out in the morning as soon as it was daylight."

Reimer, who's from Calgary, and McAuley, who lives in Vernon, spent much of the night looking for the ring with no luck.

After 18 hours of down and dirty efforts using metal detectors, kitchen implements, shovels, rakes and their icy fingers, the ring turned up in the sand a few steps from where McAuley was standing when she felt it slide off her finger.

Darrin Reimer and Caitlin McAuley search for a lost engagement ring on Oct. 28 as high tide approaches at Cox Bay Beach in Tofino. CHAD HIPOLITO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **I can't believe I did that.**
> Bride-to-be Caitlin McAuley

"We were in shock. It was incredible," Reimer, 34, said Sunday.

The couple went for dinner last Wednesday to celebrate their engagement. After dinner they stood on the beach, and that's when the ring disappeared.

Reimer said his marriage proposal included the custom-made ring and a poem that symbolized the couple's relationship.

"The ring was called Eternal Flame, and it's kind of unique for Caitlin and our relationship," he said. "I had written a poem for the proposal that was explaining our relationship over the last five years."

"How it went from embers to sparks to a flame, through all different seasons and survived everything, and now it's kind of an eternal flame," said Reimer.

The ring is white gold with rose gold flames and diamonds. Reimer said he did not have insurance and did not disclose how much he paid for the ring.

He said he was amazed how many people in Tofino, including the RCMP, local tourism officials and people on the beach, helped in the search for the ring. The Mounties even provided a metal detector.

But it was Tofino residents Keith and Norma Jamieson who eventually discovered the lost ring last Thursday with their powerful metal detector.

Reimer said that everywhere he turned, people in the community wanted to help.

He said his and Caitlin's love for each other was never in doubt throughout the ordeal, but this episode is further proof of their enduring commitment.

"We ended up sticking together really well," he said. "I said we know now how we deal with each other in stressful situations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The happy couple. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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LIQUOR

Restaurants, too, demand better prices than residents

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

A new restaurant industry report card gave B.C. a C+ on its liquor policies. METRO FILE

Bars and restaurants in B.C. are sick of paying the same price for wine, beer and spirits as the average Joe picking up a six-pack after work.

The province's lack of a wholesale price for the bar and restaurant industry earned it a mediocre C+ grade in the first report card on provincial liquor policies released by Restaurant Canada on Monday.

"I don't believe most of B.C. understands that the hospitality industry buys liquor products at the same price," said Mark von Schellwitz, Restaurants Canada western vice-president.

The industry association argues B.C. owners should get a discount for buying in bulk, a policy that exists in Alberta and Prince Edward Island.

Consumers could save as much as a 20 per cent break on prices, especially on higher priced items, should the province charge bars and restaurants less, von Schellwitz said.

Ninety-seven per cent of the members surveyed called on the province to provide wholesale prices.

The other factor that lowered B.C.'s report card performance is that bars and restaurants are forced to buy from the liquor distribution branch and cannot buy from private retailers that sell a wider variety of products.

If a restaurant owner runs out of a particular bottle of wine on a Friday night, for example, he or she would not be allowed to run across the street to a private wine store to restock.

> **"We're asking the government to provide us with a little bit more purchasing flexibility."**
> Mark von Schellwitz, Restaurants Canada western vice-president

"We're asking the government provide us with a bit more purchasing flexibility," von Schellwitz said.

Von Schellwitz did give B.C. credit for revamping its liquor policies, however. That progress gave it a higher ranking on the report card, with only Alberta and PEI receiving higher scores.

B.C. tied Quebec and Nova Scotia in third place, while Newfoundland and Labrador placed last with an F.

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Man survives hours in ocean

CASTAWAY

B.C. boater held onto jerry cans, crab float

Kevin Strain is having difficulty deciding where he'll hang the crab float he credits with saving his life.

But he's not about to get rid of the small, luminous buoy that helped him survive more than two hours adrift after the boat he was travelling on struck a rock off Vancouver Island and tossed him overboard last week.

"Either over the bar or in the kitchen, or maybe over the galley table," said Strain about possible locations, speaking by phone from his home on Malcolm Island, off the northern tip of Vancouver Island.

"I was thinking of Tom Hanks from (the 2000 Hollywood movie) Cast Away," he added, laughing. "This is my Wilson."

Strain left Malcolm Island last Tuesday aboard the 20-metre, 50-tonne Oliver Clark II, which he was helping a friend shuttle to Vancouver.

It was about 2 a.m. the next day and the boat had just entered the opening of the Yuculta Rapids — a nasty water feature sandwiched between Sonora and Stuart islands — when it hit a rock that lifted the boat's stern into the air and rolled it violently onto the left side.

"It felt like the bow dropped into a hole," said Strain. "That's when I got ejected out of the wheelhouse. I was standing just to the left of the captain, who was at the wheel, and I went right through the wheelhouse door on the port side and right over the rail.

> **First of all it was, 'I'm going to die.' Then it was, 'Holy crap, I made it.'**
> Kevin Strain

"I was standing there one minute, I felt the impact and the next minute I'm in the water," he said. "I don't even remember going through the doorway."

Strain, who wasn't wearing a life jacket, quickly managed to grab onto a pair of empty 20-litre jerry cans that had also been tossed into the water. The buoyant, bright-red containers helped him stay afloat as he was repeatedly dragged below the surface in a series of whirlpools.

"I was sucked under and spit back out and sucked under and spit back out," said Strain. "I closed my eyes because I was getting dizzy from going around."

Within a few minutes he was out of the rapids, being swept away in a strong current that prevented him from swimming back to the boat.

Using the jerry cans and a crab float he spotted under the light of the full moon, Strain recalled propping his upper body out of the water and kicking for shore, buoyed by thoughts of his wife and three young children.

"First of all it was, 'I'm going to die.' Then it was, 'Holy crap, I made it.' Then it was, 'If I don't make it out of this I'm never going to see my family again.'"

More than two hours later, Strain managed to grab onto a rocky outcropping and pull himself ashore to escape the current.

After wringing out his waterlogged hoodie, he watched from afar while coast guard boats and a rescue helicopter scoured the channel looking for him. Eventually, around 6 a.m., his yelling caught the attention of rescuers on board a civilian boat helping with the search.

Despite spending hours in the water, which he said coast guard officials estimated to be around 10 C, Strain was remarkably unscathed, escaping with little more than bruising along his left side where he slammed into the wheelhouse door on his way overboard.

"I never stopped kicking. I think just working, keeping the blood flowing, was helping me out a bit. I think if I'd just drifted I would have frozen pretty quick," he said.

"Everybody says, 'You're tough,' or whatever, but I think it's more stubbornness than anything," he added, laughing. "Just not giving up — not giving up." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kevin Strain poses in this handout photo. THE CANADIAN PRESS

INVESTIGATION

Police watchdog clears Vancouver officer after woman dies in custody

B.C.'s police watchdog has cleared a Vancouver officer of any wrongdoing after a woman's death in custody.

The Independent Investigations Office says evidence it collected does not suggest that the officer committed a criminal offence.

It says in a report that police were called to a home about a domestic disturbance on Dec. 15, 2014, and took a woman into custody.

She fell unconscious in the back of a police van and was transported to hospital, where she died eight days later.

The IIO says the woman was likely impaired when she was arrested, but did not appear to need medical attention. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Newcomer nurses key to crisis: Study

HEALTH CARE

Canada faces shortfall of 60,000 by year 2022

As baby boomers age, Canada faces a looming health-care crunch that will be exacerbated by a projected shortage of tens of thousands of nurses.

That makes it more important than ever for Canada to help foreign-trained nurses qualify to practice here, according to a Conference Board of Canada study.

Each dollar invested by Ottawa and provincial governments in helping registered nurses acquire Canadian licences generates $9 in future income tax revenue — a ninefold return, according to the study — not to mention their contributions to the care of the country's rapidly aging population.

With seniors outnumbering children for the first time ever, according to new Statistics Canada figures, and a projected shortage of 60,000 nurses by 2022, investing in bridging programs makes immense sense, experts say.

"This is a win-win for Canada and the internationally educated nurses (IEN)," said Michael Bloom, the conference board's vice-president in charge of industry and business strategy. "The concept of investing in career bridging programs is good and sound. It yields returns."

According to the study, more than half of immigrants with health professional backgrounds have trouble getting their foreign credentials recognized in Canada, compared to just 40 per cent in other regulated professions.

Joanne Roth, interim executive director of the CARE Centre for Internationally Educated Nurses, said it's in everyone's interest to help newcomer professionals succeed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ghanaian-trained RN Janet Kwansah came to Canada in 2010 and now works as a public health nurse. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE.

POLITICS

Cartoonists ready for new targets

Mallory Chate
For Metro

Prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau is proving to be a breath of fresh air for some political cartoonists.

With a career based, literally, around drawing attention to world events, it's helpful to have some new characters in the mix once in awhile, said Graeme MacKay, a Hamilton cartoonist whose work appears in the Hamilton Spectator.

After 10 years of practice, MacKay says he can draw outgoing prime minister Stephen Harper "with my eyes closed."

Artists live for the crazy moments that come with the territory of political cartooning, noting Trudeau is less stage managed than Harper was, which could lead to some interesting moments.

Then again, "politics is politics," said Halifax-based cartoonist Michael de Adder. "It doesn't matter who's in power. You sit around waiting for them to make their first mistake."

Graeme MacKay drew this Justin Trudeau piece, which is one of MacKay's favourites. COURTESY GRAEME MACKAY

EDUCATION

Students could pay off loans with miles

Graduates who owe the federal government money on their student loans could soon have the chance to use travel reward points to help pay their debts.

The previous Conservative government gave the political go-ahead in February for Employment and Social Development Canada to work out a deal with Higher Ed Points, a private company that lets registered students put reward points like those collected through Aeroplan towards tuition and loan payments.

The program is in place in two provinces — Alberta and Ontario — but a move to the federal level would reach hundreds of thousands more students as the majority of student assistance flows through the Canada Student Loans program.

The company told federal officials that up to 820,000 student loan recipients who still owe the government money could end up paying off part of their debt with Aeroplan points. For instance, 35,000 Aeroplan points would repay $250 of unpaid debt.

Officials viewed the number with some skepticism, based on the briefing note, telling then-employment minister Pierre Poilievre "there is little data available about how students are using Higher Ed Points for student loan repayment."

> **This (program) provides a no-cost method of repayment and another source of debt reduction to help students pay down their student loans more quickly...**
> Briefing note obtained by the Canadian Press

"From a government perspective, this provides a no-cost method of repayment and another source of debt reduction to help students pay down their student loans more quickly," reads the briefing note, a copy of which The Canadian Press obtained through the Access to Information Act.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEBT BY THE NUMBERS

Student loan 2013-14 figures:

- 515,279: Full time and part-time students in receipt of financial assistance from the federal government.
- $3.413 billion: Amount in assistance those students received.
- $715 million: Amount of that assistance in the form of non-repayable grants.
- $1,908: Average grant to students from low-income families.
- $15,655: Average federal student debt for university graduates.
- $9,452: Average federal student debt for college graduates.
- 203,028: Borrowers who couldn't afford repayments and who had the government cover part of their interest payments.
- 238,513: Grants to students from low-income families.
- $1,908: Average grant to students from low-income families.
- $15,655: Average federal student debt for university graduates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MPs to vote on bill

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA ACT

Politicians weigh benefits of adopting new powers

The 338 MPs of the 42nd Parliament will have the opportunity this week to formally adopt new powers — the question is, will they view the changes as in their political interest?

Already, the NDP is signalling it likely won't support all or any of the new provisions in the Parliament of Canada Act, which originated in a Private Member's Bill by Conservative MP Michael Chong.

The Liberals are only just beginning to consider the implications. One high-level source suggested many inside the party don't see the need to bind themselves by the provisions.

NDP House Leader Peter Julian refers to Chong's bill, passed into law in June, as the "Conservative Reform Act."

When he put forward the bill, Chong said it was designed to rebalance power between MPs and the party leaders.

NDP House Leader Peter Julian asks a question during question period in the House of Commons in Ottawa in May. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

The four changes that each caucus will need to vote on before they get to anything else are:

- Whether MPs have the power to trigger a secret ballot leadership review after 20 per cent of them request one.
- Whether MPs have the power to suspend and reinstate colleagues via secret ballot.
- Whether MPs have the power to elect interim leaders.
- Whether MPs have the power to elect and eject their caucus chairpersons.

The Conservatives are facing the tricky question of whether to exclude senators from their vote for interim leader. The Chong bill specifies that only MPs can participate in the votes, while the Conservative constitution refers to the parliamentary caucus.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLICY

Liberals to restore long-form census

Restoring the long-form census will be among the first acts of the new Liberal government, which takes office Wednesday.

Prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau and his cabinet are expected to move quickly on the formal decision to reinstate the mandatory questionnaire that was axed by the Conservatives in 2010, the Star has learned.

The move, seen as vital by those who rely on census data, is an important symbolic one, too, for the Liberals, demonstrating a commitment to science-based policy while taking the first steps of undoing the legacy of almost a decade of Conservative rule.

> **"It's definitely an excellent step.**
> Ivan Fellegi, former chief statistician

"It will be fairly easy because it doesn't take legislation. All it requires is cabinet saying so," said Ivan Fellegi, who served as Canada's chief statistician for 23 years and retired in 2008.

"It's definitely an excellent step," he told the Star Monday.

Fellegi was among the many voices who raised concerns about the Tory move in 2010 — done with no consultation — to replace the mandatory long-form census with a voluntary household survey for the 2011 census. The eight-question mandatory short form was distributed as well.

Munir Sheikh, the head of Statistics Canada, quit in protest over the decision, warning that a voluntary survey would not work.

That warning was borne out as many experts viewed the data from the National Household Survey with suspicion because it was voluntary.

Indeed, because of the questionable nature of some results, Statistics Canada was unable to publish detailed census data for some smaller communities.

"The move to the voluntary census had a fairly substantial impact, particularly for small towns and cities and neighbourhoods ... that's where the impact was really felt," said Doug Norris, the chief demographer at Environics Analytics.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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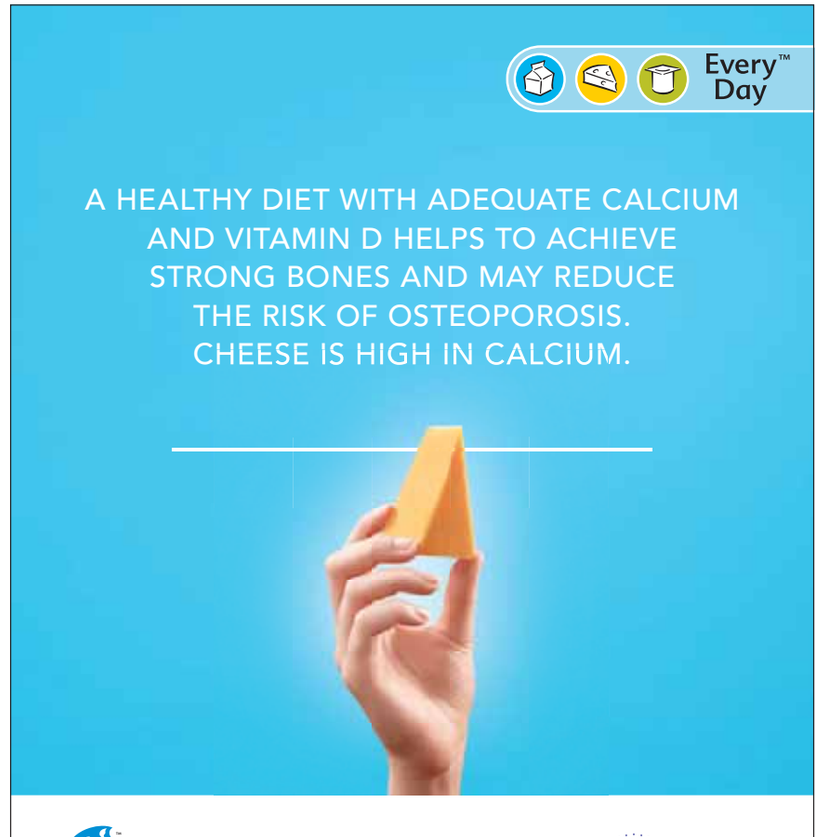
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EGYPT

Crash's cause a mystery

Mystery and confusion surrounded the final moments of a Russian jetliner that plummeted suddenly from high altitude to the Egyptian desert, killing all 224 people aboard. The airline Monday ruled out pilot error or a technical fault, but Russian aviation officials dismissed that as premature.

Some aviation experts raised the possibility a bomb on board the Metrojet Airbus A321-200 brought it down.

James Clapper, the U.S. director of national intelligence, said that while there is no direct evidence of any terrorist involvement yet, it couldn't be excluded.

Asked if a terrorist attack could be ruled out, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said no.

The Metrojet was flying at 31,000 feet over the Sinai when it crashed Saturday only 23 minutes after takeoff.

Metrojet firmly denied that the crash could have been caused by either equipment failure or crew error.

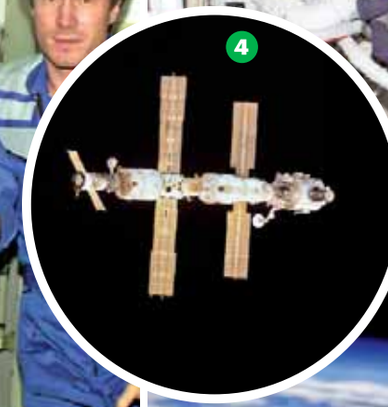
"The only possible explanation could be an external impact on the airplane," Metrojet's deputy director Alexander Smirnov told a news conference in Moscow.

British military analyst Paul Beaver said he thought the crash was likely caused by a bomb.

Robert Galan, a French aviation expert, said Metrojet's claim of an "external impact" pointed to two possibilities: a bomb or sabotage.

"Either a bomb was placed during the stopover and programmed to explode after takeoff, or a mechanic sabotaged the plane," he said. "These are the two most probable hypotheses."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Space Station marks 15 years

SCIENCE

Successful experiment in co-operation

Humankind marked an off-the-planet pinnacle Monday: the 15th anniversary of continuous residency at the International Space Station.

NASA and its global partners celebrated the milestone, as did the six astronauts on board. The U.S., Russian and Japanese spacemen planned a special dinner 250 miles up.

Commander Scott Kelly, seven months into a yearlong mission, said the biggest benefit of the orbiting lab is goals for exploring deeper into space.

"The space station really is a bridge. It's a test bed for the technologies that we need to develop and understand in order to have a successful trip to Mars," American astronaut Kjell Lindgren said at a news conference.

Since the first permanent crew moved in on Nov. 2, 2000, 220 people have come and gone, representing 17 countries.

The United States is in the lead because of all the space shuttle flights that were needed to deliver station pieces; Russia is in second place, and Canada and Japan tied for third.

The most important experiment, Kelly said, is about keeping humans alive in space. His one-year mission with Russian Mikhail Kornienko, due to end in March, includes 400 experiments, many of them medical. Americans have never spent this long in space; the Russians have, but it was decades ago on the former Mir station.

NASA puts the number of experiments at this space station, over the years, at more than 1,760. NASA hopes to keep the complex running until 2024.

Japanese astronaut Kimiya Yui said the space station has yielded a unique culture given all the nationalities involved, with the crew members respecting each other. If this were practiced back on the planet, he noted, "the Earth will be a much better place."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 ISS pioneers — Oct. 31, 2000: A Soyuz spacecraft lifts off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan with Expedition 1 Cmdr. William M. (Bill) Shepherd of NASA and cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev and Yuri Gidzenko. The trio arrived at the International Space Station (ISS) on Nov. 2, 2000.

2 Live, work, space — Nov. 2, 2000: Shepherd, Gidzenko and Krikalev are the first crew to live and work on the International Space Station, marking the start of an uninterrupted human presence on the orbiting laboratory.

3 Home away from home — Dec. 2, 2000: The configuration of the space station at the start of Expedition 1.

4 Woman at the helm — Oct. 10, 2007: Peggy A. Whitson was the first woman to command the ISS.
PHOTO CREDIT/TEXT: NASA HANDOUT

5 Well-suited for spacewalks — March 27, 2015: U.S. astronaut Scott Kelly has his space suit tested at the Russian-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome. A crew consisting of Kelly and two other cosmonauts blasted off to the ISS from Baikonur on March 28 of this year. PHOTO CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES

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IN BRIEF

Central, southern Britain fog affects flights, roads
Flights were cancelled across Britain as thick fog blanketed the country a second day. Heathrow Airport cancelled 45 flights Monday morning. Flights were scrapped at London's City and Gatwick airports and at Manchester Airport. Meanwhile, Highways England has urged drivers to slow down or stay home.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican arrests priest, woman in wake of leak
The Vatican said Monday it had arrested a high-ranking priest and another member of a papal reform commission on suspicion of leaking documents — days before the publication of two books promising revelations about the obstacles Pope Francis faces in cleaning up the Holy See's finances. The developments threatened to become a new "Vatileaks" — the 2012 scandal that began when Italian journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi detailed corruption and mismanagement in the Holy See. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BlackBerry releases first Android phone

TECHNOLOGY

Division's survival depends on Priv's success

The future of BlackBerry's smartphone business may very well be sitting in your hands later this week.

The BlackBerry Priv, the company's first Android device, marks what could be a last-ditch attempt by the Waterloo, Ontario-based developer to create a phone popular enough to save its struggling hardware division.

If the Priv doesn't sell, it's almost certain BlackBerry will pull the plug on designing phones after a series of sales flops whittled down its thriving device business into a money-losing operation.

"BlackBerry's handset business rides on the success or failure of the Priv," said technology analyst Carmi Levy.

"If this device doesn't turn the sales tide around, expect a quick decision in the new year."

After being pummelled by the likes of Apple and Samsung, BlackBerry is doing what some of its critics say should've happened years ago: appealing to existing smartphone trends instead of fighting against them.

For first time in its history, BlackBerry will be selling a phone beginning Friday that doesn't run on its own operating system, using Google's Android system instead.

It's a compromise with the mainstream on almost every level. On the surface, its larger touch screen evokes the design of most smartphones on the market, while a slider keyboard caters to more traditional BlackBerry users who still favour one of the company's most beloved features.

In naming the device Priv — short for privacy and privilege — the company hopes to tap into a conversation about how we unknowingly share our personal details with third parties through various phone apps.

The Priv arrives in stores two years after concepts for the device began to take shape.

Over the coming weeks, BlackBerry will unveil a marketing campaign it says forgoes the traditional launch event in favour of spending on advertising throughout the crucial holiday shopping season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Blackberry Priv is displayed in Toronto on Friday.
GRAEME ROY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOSSIL FUELS

Investors losing interest in oilsands

An exchange-traded fund that let investors track Canada's oilsands sector was quietly put out of its misery in late August.

Consultant Timothy Nash, who coaches clients on where and how they can make low-carbon investments, said the decision by BlackRock Asset Management Canada to close its nine-year-old fund was telling, suggesting there was likely low market demand for the product.

BlackRock said the fund's closure was part of a routine re-evaluation of its product lineup.

The iShares Oil Sands Index ETF was in rough shape. A dollar invested when the fund was launched in October 2006 would get back 34 cents on the day it was terminated. During its final year, the fund lost 45 per cent of its value.

Options for those looking to reduce their exposure to fossil fuels include renewable energy and water ETFs and an emerging class of investment called community bonds, which in Ontario are commonly used by co-operatives to raise funds for local renewable energy projects. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

TransCanada asks U.S. to pause Keystone pipeline

TransCanada Corp., the company behind the Keystone XL pipeline from Alberta to Texas, has asked the U.S. government — in a letter to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry — to temporarily suspend its application.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

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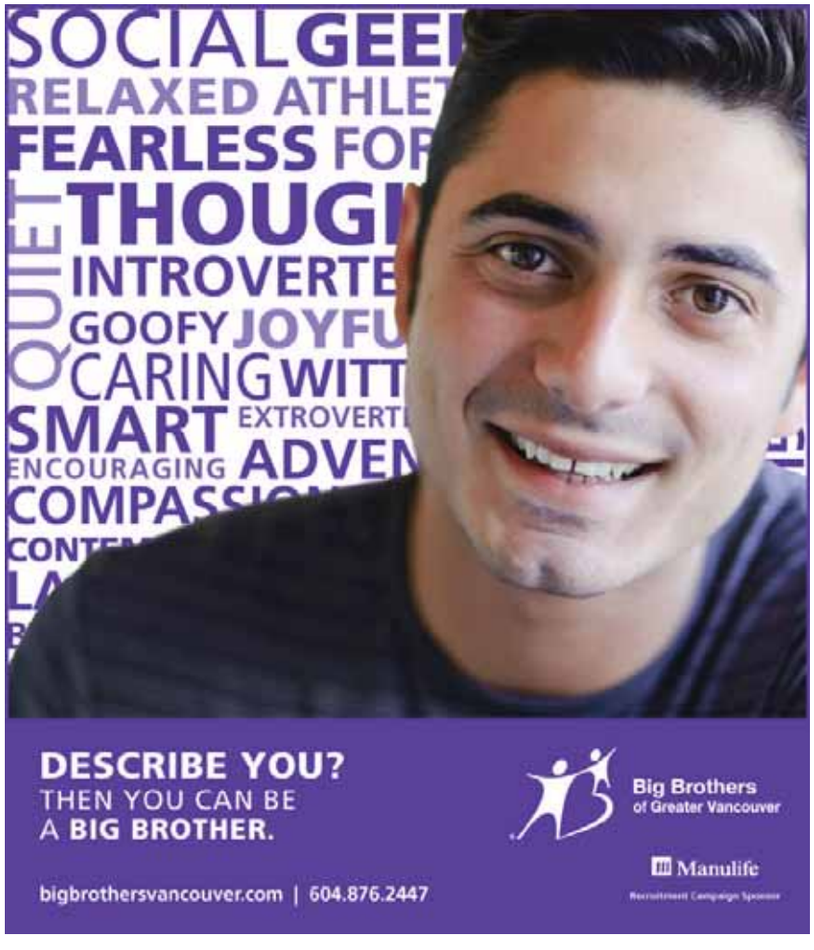
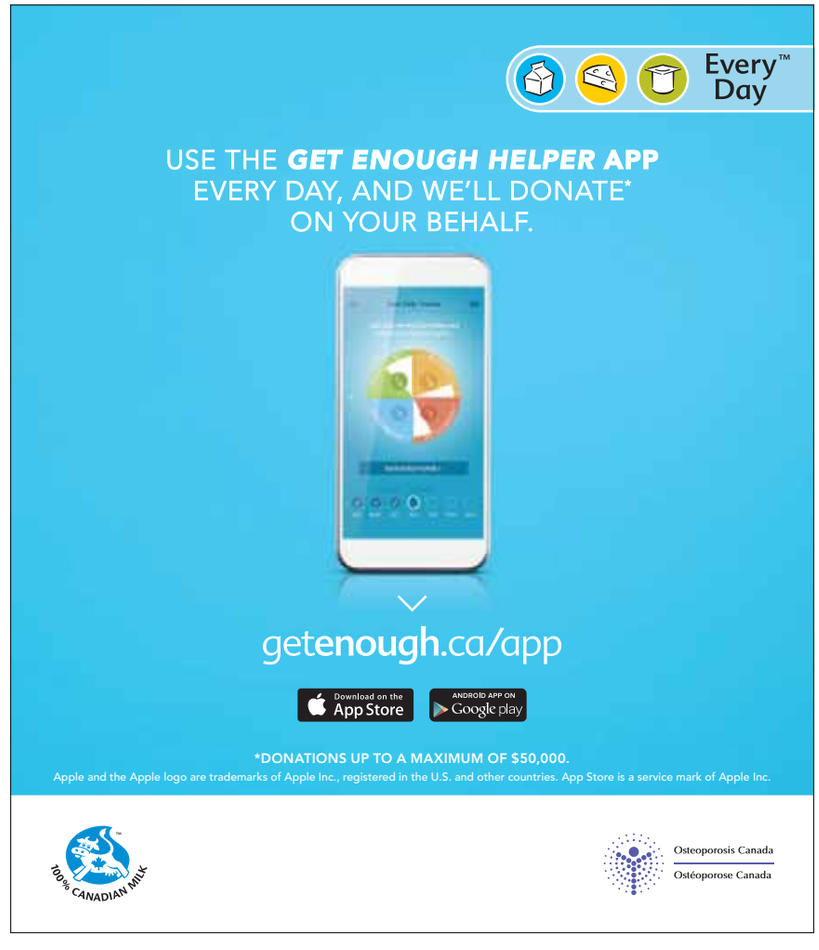
TSX 13,623.01 (+93.84)

OIL $46.14 US (-45¢)

GOLD $1,135.90 US (-$5.50)

NATURAL GAS: $2.256 US (-6.5¢)
DOW JONES: 17,828.76 (+165.22)

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EMMA TEITEL: ON MOVEMBER

Good things done for wrong or unsavoury reasons — social-media attention, for example — are more far-reaching than good deeds done in private.

American author Kurt Vonnegut was not fond of November, an awkward, meteorologically confusing month he believed we wrongly associated with autumn. "The poetry of four seasons is all wrong for this part of the planet," he wrote. "Spring doesn't feel like spring a lot of the time, and November is all wrong for autumn."

But Vonnegut didn't believe November was a winter month either. Instead, he thought November belonged to a hybrid season of his own invention, one he labelled "Locking" — when the days get shorter, the nights get colder and life in general seems to close in on itself — making way for legitimate and unforgiving winter around January.

(In a similar fashion, Vonnegut labelled March and April "Unlocking" months, when the world slowly opens up for true spring in May and June.)

Vonnegut's theory is convincing — especially if you're a Canadian used to prolonged awfulness outdoors. But it's also outdated. Vonnegut's November (he died in 2007) was starkly different from November today: a month no longer perceived as a dull layover between Halloween and Christmas, nor defined by unpleasant weather and ennui, but by something else entirely: raising money to battle men's cancers by rejoicing in the facial hair growth of friends, family and co-workers.

November is no longer a bleak season of "Locking," then; it is the official season of Growing Facial Hair and it is a massively popular one.

The campaign responsible for this shift is called Movember. It is active in 21 countries worldwide, encouraging participants ("Mo bros") to grow moustaches in order to raise awareness about cancers that affect men (prostate cancer, for example).

GROWING SEASON There's nothing more pretentious than criticizing charity efforts, such as Movember fundraising for men's health, for being too ostentatious, argues Emma Teitel. LORATO/ISTOCK

In the last 11 years, according to the campaign's website, Movember has raised $677 million for men's health; last November, it raised $24 million in Canada alone.

Movember is heavily reliant on social media for both exposure and fundraising (moustache selfies are extremely popular), which means even if you aren't involved, you will most likely come across a Facebook friend's proud picture or request for donation.

Despite its success, Movember has attracted a considerable amount of controversy in the last few years. Some of that controversy is plain ludicrous: the belief, for example, that Movember discriminates against men who can't grow moustaches. (I myself can grow a full beard, which I would attempt for no cause imaginable). But the more popular criticism of the campaign, one echoed in response to other big charity events such as the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, is the belief, to quote British poet and historian William Hutton, that a "charity that hastens to proclaim its good deeds ceases to be a charity and is only pride and ostentation."

This belief is a favourite among Movember and Ice Bucket Challenge critics who, every year, write scathing opeds about the "slacktivism" inherent in flashy charity campaigns — critics like writer and comedian Joshua Holley, who just last week published an anti-Movember piece in the Sydney Morning Herald in which he calls Movember "grooming laziness in the name of visible do-gooding."

It seems every time a charity campaign reaches viral status, a small but vocal and surly group of people comes out to decry said charity as superficial, because it attracts band-wagon types who participate in the social-media spectacle of the campaign but fail to pay it forward with cold hard cash. Holley asks of the Ice Bucket Challenge: "How many people dumped a bucket over their heads for a laugh compared to those who actually stumped up some cash?"

The problem with this line of thinking is that it insists a charity be ideologically pure; people shouldn't just do the right things, they should do the right things only for the right reasons.

But good things done for wrong or unsavoury reasons — social-media attention, for example — are more far-reaching than good deeds done in private, and they are far more likely to inspire others to give. A charity that hastens to proclaim its good deeds, to borrow Hutton's words, may be prideful and ostentatious — but, more importantly, it's wildly successful.

November — sorry, Movember — is now upon us, and I think it's quite nice to have something positive to partake in rather than merely stew in the bleak boredom of "Locking" before winter sets in. And I suspect Vonnegut, a thoroughly un-cynical person, might have felt the same way.

As for the hypocrites who dislike Movember because they oppose so-called "hipster moustaches": There is nothing in the world more annoyingly hipster-ish than turning your nose up at earnest people trying to make the world a better place. Be original for once, and chip in.

It's nice to have something positive to partake in, rather than merely stewing in bleak boredom before winter sets in.

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star. She has been a front-of-the-book columnist for Maclean's magazine for the past four years, focusing on a wide range of subjects including women's issues and popular culture. She won the National Magazine Awards gold award for columns in 2013.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

High housing costs and homelessness are everyone's problems

So — it really is the foreign buyers.

A new study of detached-home sales in three Vancouver neighbourhoods found two-thirds of all properties sold to Chinese buyers. That figure jumped to 88 per cent of buyers for homes over $5 million.

It's more evidence to spur Vancouver — and B.C. — to tackle the foreign-ownership thrust of its ludicrously overpriced housing market.

And that, in turn, is part of a much wider, much more existential housing question facing all levels of government.

NDP MLA David Eby, who provided the raw data to UBC geographer David Ley, called Vancouver's hyperventilating house prices "a government problem" — namely, how do you create a city average people can afford to live in?

It's a burning question these days for many in the so-called middle class, who grew up with expectations of someday owning a home, only to age alongside real-estate markets on steroids.

But it's a question also being asked from the vantage point of the homeless.

In a ruling released late last month, the B.C. Supreme Court found Abbotsford violated the rights of homeless people when it banned them from sleeping in public parks.

All people have the right to shelter from the elements and a safe space to sleep, the court ruled. This has implications for all municipalities.

DJ Larkin, the lead counsel for Pivot Legal Society representing Abbotsford's homeless, notes that we've been in limbo: stuck between courts wary of wading into politics by telling governments they have a responsibility to house people; and a lack of political will to solve housing cost problems for anyone, poor or middle-class.

That is shifting. Victoria has gone from evicting the homeless from parks, to musing about setting up a tent city, to recently paying homeless people $20 each for input on temporary housing options. Medicine Hat, Alta., meanwhile, claims to have ended homelessness altogether (a feat Vancouver promised and failed to do by 2015).

Both Ontario and Alberta have also vowed to end homelessness (Alberta by 2017, Ontario with no fixed date).

During the federal election, all three major parties campaigned on policies that would address the furor over housing costs, and the Liberals will now be expected to implement their promised National Housing Strategy.

There's nothing more basic, more central to our lives, than having a home. It's not just a necessity or a sense of safety — it's a sense of dignity, an opportunity for happiness, a physical foundation for a life. And: a new national preoccupation.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Mariah Carey, Questlove, Sesame Street set for Macy's NYC Thanksgiving Day Parade

Jojo turns struggles into song material

NEW ALBUM

Singer mines breakups for emotions she needs to write

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York

Many people still think of Jojo as the tween from her Too Little Too Late days, but the pop singer is back and getting the attention of both her old fans and new ones.

After a seven-year battle with her former label that would not release her third album, Jojo has a new deal with Atlantic Records, three new songs and a new full album in the works.

"I try not to think of it as being burned but as just part of my journey," she says of the industry drama.

"It gave me an edge and ability to be equipped this time around."

Jojo tells us she was going through a breakup when she started working on the new songs.

"I was in a state of high emotion when I started recording," she says.

Her music has always been influenced by her love life, which she admits isn't always a good thing.

"Sometimes I stay in situations longer for material and for the emotions they bring up," the 24-year-old says.

"As I get older, I realize that's not really good. I need to chill. But the content it creates is sometimes worth the struggle."

In just three weeks the When Love Hurts music video racked up well over a million views and Jojo says she was shocked by all the attention.

"I was wicked surprised! I was scared and wasn't sure what the response was going to be, but it's an incredible feeling knowing when I go (on tour) I'll see so many familiar and new faces."

And while she's excited about the new songs, she doesn't mind taking a trip down memory lane singing her early hits.

"I actually enjoy performing (them) more now," she says.

"I didn't love Leave (Get Out) when I put it out, and now that I'm older and I've loved, it has a new meaning for me.

"I've definitely kicked somebody out of my house, so I get it now!"

WORKOUT TIPS

Jojo's secrets for washboard abs
Jojo rocks a crop top in the When Love Hurts music video and it's easy to see why — she's in sick shape. Here, she shares her tips:

1. Vary your workout.
"I have fun trying out different workouts. I do CrossFit and belong to a gym, where I do cardio intervals."

2. Incorporate weights.
"Holding a weighted bar or weighted plate is good for deepening cuts. I feel strong when my core is strong."

3. Try active resistance training.
"I like working against my natural weight to tone," she says.

METRO NEW YORK

Jojo says she was in a state of high emotion when she started recording her new songs. CONTRIBUTED

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NYIT

Tattoos may not stand the test of time

TRENDS

Will Bautista bat flip still look good in ten years?

FY Ink in Toronto took to social media to recruit one Jays "superfan" to get the bat-flip image inked on their body for free. So far, the owner of the tattoo is very happy with it.
THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT AND GETTY IMAGES

Just hours after slugger Jose Bautista made an indelible mark in Toronto Blue Jays history with his now-famous bat flip, Byran Bevins sought to make the moment even more permanent.

The factory worker from Oshawa, Ont., got a tattoo of Bautista doing his celebratory bat toss in Game 5 of the series versus the Texas Rangers — less than 24 hours after it happened.

Baseball hysteria in Toronto would ultimately last just a little over a week longer before the Jays were eliminated by the Kansas City Royals.

But Bevins has no regrets about his inked image, which is on his upper-left thigh and took more than six hours to create.

"Well, maybe when I'm older and it starts to fade and kind of looks dumb," says Bevins, who has six other tattoos.

"But that would be only because of looks, not because of what it is."

Bevins got the tattoo after FY Ink in Toronto took to social media to recruit one Jays "superfan" to get the bat-flip image inked on their body for free.

It was a gimmick, but it points to a growing trend that's been noticed by Mike McLaine, owner of Precision Laser Tattoo Removal in Toronto.

"It seems to be a trend that now you get some kind of event, something going on in the news, and invariably somebody decides to go out there and mark the occasion irreversibly with a tattoo," says McLaine.

FY Ink made headlines for a similar campaign two years ago, when one of its apprentices got a tattoo of then-mayor Rob Ford smoking a crack pipe.

"He thought it was cool until the second day when all the comments (on the story) were pretty friggin' harsh," says FY Ink owner Lee Baxter.

"He was just like, 'Man, my parents are ... pissed off at me,"' he added, using an unprintable expletive.

A love of certain musicians or bands seems to drive many impulsive tattoo requests. A client at FY Ink, for example, got one of Chris Brown's face.

While some tattoo parlours have their own code of ethics, Baxter's isn't as strict. He calls himself "more of a businessman" who believes that a parlour "should offer from A to Z tattooing" while focusing on hygiene and quality work.

But he takes a harder line with younger clients who have lofty ideas, especially those under the required age of 18, even if they're with their consenting parents.

Baxter once turned away a 17-year-old girl who went in with her mother asking for lyrics from a Nine Inch Nails song to be tattooed from her wrist to her armpit.

"If someone comes in and they say 'Go Jays go' and they want to put it on their forehead, well I'm probably going to tell them it's a real bad idea and we don't really want to have anything to do with it," says Baxter.

But if they're persistent about it, he won't refuse.

"I'd rather make sure that person gets it done somewhere that's really safe and clean and I know we're notable for that, so why not?" he says.

McLaine thinks the trend is partly a result of tattoos becoming so ubiquitous, resulting in a mentality of "everybody has a tattoo, so why shouldn't I get one?" he says.

"The second part, a disturbing trend is this undercurrent of ... 'Well why shouldn't I get a tattoo, because I can always get it removed.' While that's true, it's a time-consuming, painful, expensive process."

The cost of full tattoo removal at his clinic depends on the size of the work. McLaine says at the low end, it's about $1,700.

And clients need about four to eight treatments to get one fully removed, depending on the depth of the ink (faded ink is easier to remove).

McLaine estimates a work like the Bautista tattoo would cost about $3,000 and take a few treatments to get rid of.

Of course, Bevins isn't concerned with that right now.

After all, Bautista praised it on his Instagram account and met with Bevins in the team's locker room.

"I started showing Bautista the tattoo and (the other Jays) all just kind of kept calling each other over until pretty much the whole team was surrounding me," recalls Bevins.

"I was just standing there in my underwear showing them my tattoo."

While the Blue Jays buzz was worn off, Bevins is still proud of the piece.

"They still did really well in my eyes. They really pulled together and still made things happen, made for a good season." THE CANADIAN PRESS

RICK MERCER REPORT
TONIGHT
Rick takes to the skies over Niagara Falls in a legendary World War II Lancaster Bomber.
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Kathy Griffin for president

INTERVIEW

Comedian talks Trump, Oscars and death threats

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

Kathy Griffin doesn't have time to pull punches. The wise-cracking comic is currently hurtling through an 80-city U.S. tour and she's keeping her act fresh each night thanks to the likes of Donald Trump and Chris Christie.

You should moderate all of the debates going forward.
Yes, I should. I'd like to really get down to when it's just that one tiny table with the last two candidates. This time it will just be Trump and Hillary ... because as a comedian I kind of want this to keep going even though as a human and a feminist I don't — but I do have a fantasy that Melania Trump is some sort of trump card, if you will, and she's the new Jackie O and we don't know it, and she's going to be this incredible ambassador and she's been hiding her multiple degrees from MIT and Oxford. Maybe she's going to be the new Eleanor Roosevelt.

So Trump is the new FDR?
Which is the next obvious conclusion. That is how crazy it's gotten. He's really fooling us all in a way that is entertaining and frightening. I'm more qualified to be president.

Would you like to formally announce your candidacy?
Well, yes. But I think that my VP should be Donald Trump Jr. And my entire cabinet will be made up of Palins, and then obviously Ann Coulter will be my secretary of defence. We're going to keep America great again (laughs). No, I am hashtag ready for Hillary.

Want to talk Chris Christie?
It's fine for him to stay in the Jersey area, but you can't send New Jersey to another country. Could you imagine him sitting down with Justin Trudeau? He doesn't know who that is!

What about yourself as an Oscar host?
Oh my gosh, I would love it. There is just a mountain of sexism in Hollywood, and I freely say it because I'm 54 and have two Emmys and a Grammy — I'm half way to an EGOT — and I just sold out the Kennedy Center in June, and I'm often just not considered for these things, so I don't know. I think when I was younger people were kind of afraid of me, but I think I've proven myself now.

metroGOSSIP MUST READ

Do you worry about your act making you enemies?
I'm not saying Demi Lovato is actively trying to kill me, but her fan army, they have taken to the social media and been very specific about ways that they want to put a machine gun up my butt, cut me with razors. That is something that is actually unprecedented in the history of comedy. In the Clinton era you could make fun of Monica Lewinsky and the jizz on the dress, and no one tried to kill you for it.

ROMANCE

Gwen and Blake were totally holding hands

Freshly divorced The Voice judges Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton continue to stoke rumours of inter-office romance, this time by spending some quality time together at a pair of festive Halloween bashes thrown by Jared Leto and George Clooney's tequila company — yes, you read that correctly — in Beverly Hills.

"Stefani stayed for about 40 minutes (at the Clooney party), then left the house holding Shelton's hand," a source tells Entertainment Tonight. "Shelton and Stefani apparently let go of each other's grasp, however, when they noticed a photographer in sight."

As far as costumes, maybe we can read something into the fact that Stefani dressed as a bloodied-up cowgirl — country music influence, perhaps? — while Shelton donned a poncho and a trucker hat. I can only assume he was dressed up as … Blake Shelton. NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO

SCHUMER'S STATUS, SWIFT LAWSUIT

Amy Schumer's frank love-life update

Amy Schumer is not just a successful comedian, actress and budding author. She's also an incredibly helpful information source. Especially when it comes to her love life. While accepting the Charlie Chaplin Brittania Award for Excellence in Comedy from BAFTA recently, Schumer was asked if she's currently seeing anyone, and she responded thusly:

"No, my vagina remains vacant."

So poetic, so straightforward. So ... evocative.

And how much would it take to get into said destination for a willing suitor?

"At least five dollars."

NED EHRBAR/ FOR METRO

Swift getting sued by guy who says she got haters, players idea from him

It's possible Taylor Swift won't even notice, but she's being sued by R&B singer Jesse Braham for $42 million over claims that she ripped off lyrics from his 2013 track Haters Gone Hate for her hit Shake it Off, according to the Daily News.

But don't worry, it's not going to get very far.

"Mr. Braham, who is representing himself, cannot claim copyright protection for the phrases 'haters gone hate' and 'players gone play,'" a legal expert tells Perez Hilton. 'The Copyright Act does not protect short phrases, and these phrases are not original to him."

NED EHRBAR/FOR METRO

MUSIC

Artists arrange their releases around Adele

How do you know when your new album is a big deal?

When other super-famous artists are arranging their release schedules around you, that's when. And that's apparently what's been happening around the Nov. 20 release of Adele's latest, 25, at least according to one music biz insider.

"The major labels have realized it's essential they get out any big releases before then because from Nov. 20 it's likely to be about one woman only," an anonymous source tells MSN.

"That's why Justin Bieber, Kylie Minogue and One Direction are going head-to-head the week before. Usually the record companies would want a No. 1 album with artists that big, but in this case they simply want to get the album out there before Adele." She's just trying to say hello, guys.

NED EHRBAR/ FOR METRO

WHAT I'M WATCHING THE AFFAIR, SEASON 1, EPISODE 9 (TMN)

This is a startling moment, because we haven't seen this Alison before

Johanna Schneller
For Metro Canada

Alison reveals a not-so-sweet side of herself in episode 9 of The Affair. HANDOUT

The shampoo

Alison (Ruth Wilson) and Noah (Dominic West) — who spent the past eight episodes falling in love, even though they're both married to other people — have just had sex in his marital bed in Park Slope, Brooklyn. (His wife Helen and their four kids are away.)

Alison takes a shower. She reaches for a bottle of pricey-looking shampoo, looks on the bottom for a price tag, and gives a low whistle. (Helen grew up wealthy, and has expensive taste. Alison is a small-town waitress.) She pours some shampoo into her hand to wash her hair. A mischievous look crosses her face. She squeezes half the bottle down the drain.

Now, this is a startling moment, because we haven't seen this Alison before. Each episode is divided in two — half tells the story from her point of view, the other half tells Noah's. In Alison's version of herself, she's sweet and simple; in Noah's, she's mysterious and demanding. But the shampoo incident occurs in Alison's half. It's a rare admission of her nasty side, and it made me reassess what I think of her. I've since seen episode 10 (the finale of Season 1), and four episodes of season two, but I went back to look at Shampoo Alison again because it's such a provocative detail. That quality has yet to reappear in her character, but I hope it does, because it threw me for such a loop. I'm still trying to figure it — and therefore her — out.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday

TV BRIEFS

Serial podcast launching Season 2 on Pandora

The top-rated and popular podcast Serial will launch its second season on Pandora after debuting on iTunes last year.

Pandora announced Monday that it has become the exclusive streaming partner for the award-winning podcast as well as This American Life, of which Serial is a spinoff.

The first season, which included 12 episodes, told the story of Adnan Syed, a Baltimore high school student who was found guilty in 2000 of murdering his ex-girlfriend Hae Min Lee. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New subscribers-only Star Trek series to debut

Star Trek is going boldly where it hasn't gone before with a brand-new edition of the sci-fi TV empire.

CBS Television Studios said Monday the "totally new" series will arrive in January 2017. But it will be available exclusively on CBS All Access, CBS' subscription streaming video service. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Bieber finishes his sentence in egg case

Justin Bieber's cleanup work at a homeless shelter has paid off, with a judge agreeing Monday to take him off formal probation in a vandalism case filed after he damaged a neighbour's home with eggs.

Bieber's attorney presented proof Monday that the pop singer had completed 40 hours of community labour, the final term of his sentence in misdemeanour case.

A program manager at a homeless shelter where Bieber completed many of the hours praised Bieber for being willing to get "his hands dirty" by performing maintenance and janitorial work, according to a probation report filed Monday.

Bieber was required to perform community labour, repay around $80,000 in damage to his neighbour's house and undergo anger management counselling as part of his sentence. His progress completing work at the homeless shelter was slowed by an ankle injury, but Bieber has received favourable reports from probation officials throughout the case.

Justin Bieber GETTY IMAGES

Bieber was sued earlier this year by Jeff and Suzanne Schwartz, his former neighbours whose home he damaged in January 2014.

Jeff Schwartz's suit also accuses Bieber of terrorizing his family with loud driving, unsafe driving and claims the singer spit in his face during one incident.

Bieber, 21, has since moved out of the gated community. He did not attend Monday's hearing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rose Reisman EAT THIS

You know you're going to eat fast, so next time choose this not that

THIS WEEK: Starbucks White Chocolate Mocha

With November upon us, we're lined up out the door to indulge in our favourite hot beverages. Starbucks comes to mind with all their tasty drinks, ranging from Pumpkin Spice Lattes, Peppermint Mochas, and the return of the red cups just in time for Christmas. But the classic Hot Chocolate is still one of the most popular to indulge in — sweet and creamy comfort in a cup. A twist on the traditional hot cocoa, a warm White Chocolate Mocha is even more of an indulgence. Decadent for sure — and beware, this sweet treat is not so innocent!

PICK THIS

Grande Hot Chocolate

Ingredients
2 per cent milk, no whip

Calories 290
Fat 9g
Saturated fats 5g
Sugar 41g

SKIP THIS

Grande White Chocolate Mocha

Ingredients
2 per cent milk, whipped cream

Calories 470
Fat 18g
Saturated fats 12g
Sugar 60g

HERE'S WHY

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The regular Hot Chocolate uses a syrup rather than chocolate, and opting to skip the whipped cream makes a difference as well. The White Chocolate Mocha is higher in calories, fat and sugar due to the addition of white chocolate, as well as the whipped topping. You've just ended up with **one quarter of your daily calories** and one and a half days' worth of sugar.

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Panic over enterovirus subsides, at least for now

STUDY

Doctors expect fewer cases this year after 2014 outbreak

What a difference a year makes.

In late summer and fall of 2014, doctors were reporting clusters of children across the U.S. and Canada being hospitalized with severe respiratory distress due to enterovirus D68, a bug that hadn't caused an outbreak in North America for years.

This year, it appears EV-D68 has disappeared from the mix of cold viruses giving people runny noses and congested lungs — but how long it will stay quiescent is anybody's guess.

"I think we're not going to see it this year," said Dr. Danuta Skowronski, an infectious disease specialist at the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, who is involved in the tracking of pathogens like EV-D68.

"We found no enterovirus D68 detections between Aug. 1 and the end of September this year," she said, referring to testing of patients with respiratory illnesses. Last year at this time, B.C. had already recorded 18 patients with EV-D68, 13 of whom needed to be hospitalized.

"I don't say it's been eliminated, but I don't think it's going to circulate at the kind of widespread epidemic levels" seen last year, Skowronski predicted.

Children infected with enterovirus were hospitalized 15 to 20 times more often than adults. ISTOCK

And widespread it was — even more so than initially thought, suggests a study led by Skowronski and published online last week in the journal EuroSurveillance.

While most studies of the 2014 outbreak looked at only cases requiring hospital admission to determine incidence and prevalence rates, the B.C. study included both hospital- and community-based patients to get a more accurate picture of EV-D68's effect on the population, using surveillance data from B.C., Alberta and Quebec.

Overall, researchers found an eight-fold increase in detections of the virus from October to December 2014, compared to the same period a year earlier.

They also found that an equal proportion of children and young adults who saw a community-based doctor for a respiratory illness tested positive for EV-D68, suggesting that a wide range of age groups was susceptible to the virus — not just children.

However, children infected with the virus were admitted to hospital at a rate 15 to 20 times higher than adults, Skowronski said. As well, kids under age 10 had a four- to five-fold higher rate of hospitalization related to EV-D68 than did those age 10 to 19.

Skowronski said ongoing surveillance in both community and hospital settings is needed so researchers can learn more about EV-D68's incidence.

A frightening aspect of last year's outbreak was that some patients developed neurological symptoms, including a condition called acute flaccid paralysis, which causes muscle weakening.

Of more than 200 EV-D68 cases confirmed in B.C. alone between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31, 2014, five patients developed neurological deficits which had not completely resolved nine to 11 months later, Skowronski said. Three other patients, all with underlying health complications, died after contracting the virus.

While national statistics from the 2014 outbreak aren't available for Canada, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported more than 1,150 confirmed cases in 49 states and the District of Columbia from mid-August 2014 to Jan. 15, 2015, most of them among children.

"Additionally, there were likely millions of mild EV-D68 infections for which people did not seek medical treatment and/or get tested," the CDC says on it website.

Skowronski said ongoing surveillance in both community and hospital settings is needed so researchers can learn more about EV-D68's incidence, who's most at risk of contracting the disease, and why some people develop neurological symptoms and others don't.

"We shouldn't let it go. We shouldn't forget about it because we're not experiencing it this year," she said.

"There may be several years between the last and the next cyclical peak and so we want to be ready to be able to address some of those why-type questions when we get another wave."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **I don't say it's been eliminated, but I don't think it's going to circulate at the kind of widespread epidemic levels (seen last year)** Dr. Danuta Skowronski

HEALTH BRIEFS

Count bites, not calories

New research suggests that counting bites, not calories, could help with weight loss.

For the study, researchers from Brigham Young University in Utah asked a group of 61 participants to count the number of times they lifted food or drink to their mouths.

They were then asked to commit to taking 20 to 30 per cent fewer bites over the next week. The 41 participants who successfully completed the task lost an average of 1.6 kg at the end of the experiment. AFP

Making a conscious effort to count bites can help people lose weight. ISTOCK

Low carb diet, not low fat, best for weight loss

Low-fat diets do not yield greater weight loss than other slimming regimes, said a study Friday.

A review of 53 scientific studies found "no good evidence for recommending low-fat diets," said lead author Deirdre Tobias of the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Massachusetts.

In fact, low-carbohydrate diets led to greater weight loss than low-fat ones, according to study results. AFP

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metro SPORTS

More viewers tuned into Sunday Night Football (average of 23 million) than Game 5 of the World Series (17.2 million)

Virtanen's first grounds Flyers

NHL

Miller shines in goal as Horvat, Hansen also find the net

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Jake Virtanen scored his first NHL goal and Ryan Miller made 27 saves as the Vancouver Canucks defeated the Philadelphia Flyers 4-1 on Monday.

Bo Horvat, with a goal and an assist, and Jannik Hansen also scored for Vancouver (6-2-4). Matt Bartkowski added another into an empty net with under a minute to go.

Claude Giroux replied for Philadelphia (4-5-2), while Steve Mason stopped 30 shots as the Flyers dropped their fourth in a row. The Canucks announced Sunday that Virtanen and fellow 19-year-old rookie forward Jared McCann would be sticking with the club beyond the nine-game mark rather than being returned to junior, triggering the first year of their entry-level contracts.

With his team already leading 2-1 in the third period, Virtanen took the puck hard to the net on a 2-on-1 and beat Mason on a backhand at 8:28 before Bartkowski added his second late as Vancouver won its second straight game on home ice after dropping its first five of the season.

Horvat gave the Canucks a 2-1 lead at 10:10 of the second period with the teams playing 4-on-4, wheeling out from behind the Philadelphia net before firing a low shot past Mason for his second goal of the season.

Wayne Simmonds came within inches of getting the Flyers even a few minutes later, but his shot rang off the post behind Miller. Vancouver then almost stretched its lead to 3-1, but Philadelphia's Chris VandeVelde cleared a bouncing puck off the goal line.

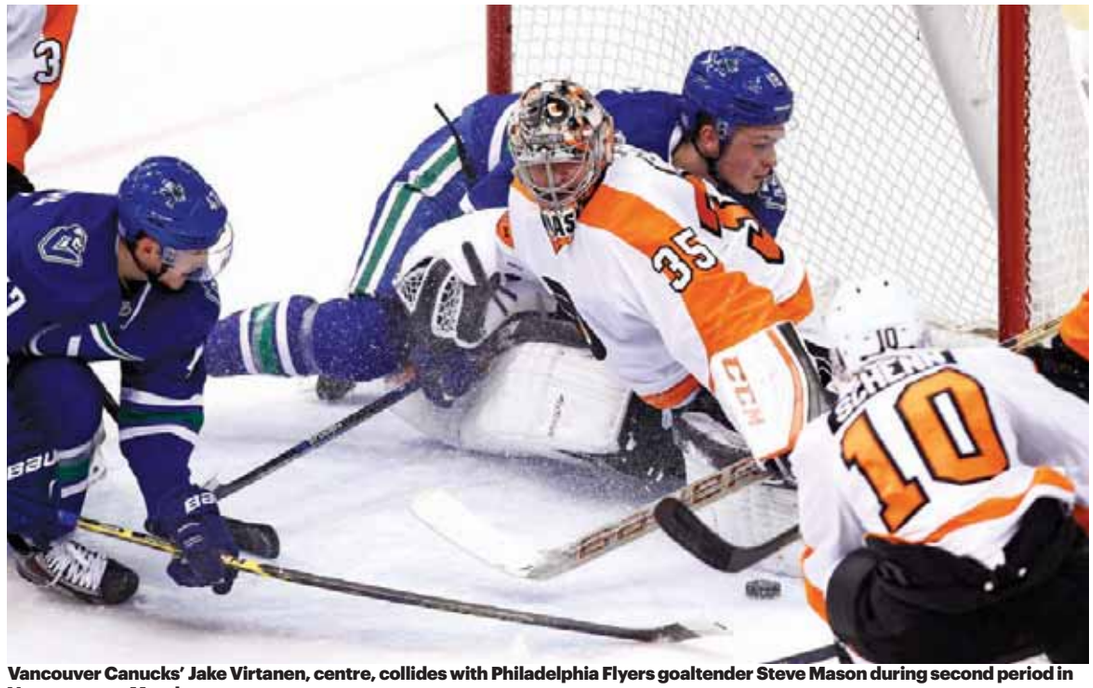
Christopher Tanev had another great opportunity from the slot with the Canucks buzzing, but Mason got across to block the defenceman's effort.

Down 1-0 after the first, the Flyers tied things up at 2:54 of the second when Giroux protected the puck from Bartkowski before roofing a backhand on Miller. The Philadelphia captain's fourth goal of the season and first in five games came after Mason made a great save on a Horvat breakaway moments earlier.

The Canucks opened the scoring just 68 seconds into the first period on a nice passing play. Sven Baertschi fed Horvat on the rush, and he in turn found Hansen, who decked Mason for his second.

Vancouver led 8-1 on the shot clock when Philadelphia finally started to push back. The Flyers crashed the Canucks' crease on a couple of occasions, with Miller stopping Vincent Lecavalier from the slot before taking a Michael Raffl shot off the shoulder to keep his team ahead through 20 minutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Vancouver Canucks' Jake Virtanen, centre, collides with Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Steve Mason during second period in Vancouver on Monday. BEN NELMS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONDAY in Vancouver

CANUCKS	FLYERS
4	1

MLS PLAYOFFS

Morales may start for vital 2nd leg

Pedro Morales, who has battled hamstring issues for much of this season, saw roughly 15 minutes of playing time for the Vancouver Whitecaps in a scoreless draw on the road versus the Portland Timbers two days ago.

Now, could the gifted midfielder and designated player be ready to start or perhaps even play a full 90 minutes for the Whitecaps when they host the Timbers in the second and final leg of this Western Conference semifinal this Sunday?

Morales said he doesn't feel any pain in his problematic hamstring, and while Carl Robinson held his cards close to the chest when questioned on the matter, he also didn't shoot down the possibility of Morales getting the start at BC Place Stadium.

The Whitecaps had chances in the first half and couldn't score a crucial away goal in the opening leg. Given that, as per MLS, away goals are the tiebreaker if the aggregate score is tied after 180 minutes, it's incumbent now on Vancouver's side to find their scoring touch at home. If Morales is ready to start, it would likely bump Gershon Koffie out of that central attacking midfield role.

"It's important … he gets some minutes in a competitive match under his belt if we're thinking about playing him next week," said Robinson of Morales.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

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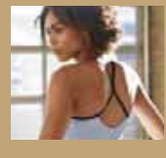

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New president faces music of GM's exit

BLUE JAYS

Shapiro says Gibbons will return to manage team

Mark Shapiro stepped into the media firing line on his first day on the job as president and chief executive officer of the Toronto Blue Jays.

Peppered with repeated questions about the departure of Alex Anthopoulos, the longtime baseball executive didn't shine any light on why the former general manager decided to move on.

"Not the transition that I originally expected," Shapiro said. "Not the opening press conference that I had envisioned."

It was a somewhat awkward 45-minute introductory session Monday at Rogers Centre, but the polished and engaging Shapiro was up to the task. He took care of a few business items at the start, announcing that assistant GM Tony LaCava would replace Anthopoulos on an interim basis and confirming that manager John Gibbons will return next year.

Shapiro called it an "incredibly exciting time" to be joining the Blue Jays and he expressed a desire to honour the passion that the now-retired Paul Beeston provided as team president. But the main talking point was Anthopoulos's surprise decision to turn down a new contract after building a team that came two wins away from reaching the World Series.

"A lot has been written the past week obviously, most of it speculation, second-hand, a lot of it untrue," Shapiro said. "All that Alex communicated was honest and forthright."

Anthopoulos turned down a five-year extension last week amid reports of a difference in vision with the new president. The 38-year-old Montreal native would only say he didn't feel like it would be the right fit, adding it was his choice to leave.

Shapiro said he was disappointed and surprised that Anthopoulos turned down the team's offer.

"It was my sincere hope that I would have the chance to learn from him, to partner with him and to work with him," he said. "Yet he's obviously earned the right to make the decision he made and I respect that decision.

"With that respect and the finality of that decision, it's time to move forward."

Anthopoulos was a popular figure in Toronto, particularly after he acquired stars Troy Tulowitzki and David Price at the trade deadline. The deals helped the Jays reach the playoffs for the first time in 22 years. His decision to leave the team at the height of its resurgence was deeply unpopular with Blue Jay fans.

"We made every effort afterwards to try to do everything we could to convince Alex to come back," Shapiro said. "Once the decision was made, that's the hand dealt. We get a plan, we move forward. I'm not going to dwell on it."

Shapiro, 48, said he talked with Anthopoulos over two or three days, but very little time was devoted to contract discussions at the former GM's request. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mark Shapiro had worked for the Cleveland Indians since 1992 and spent the last five seasons as their team president. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WHO ARE YOU?

Tony LaCava, interim GM
Age: 54
Hometown: Pittsburgh
Executive career: Hired as a scout by the California Angels in 1989, where he worked for 10 years before joining the Atlanta Braves as the national scouting supervisor; joined the Montreal Expos that same year and ran the farm system; hired by the Cleveland Indians in 2002 as the national cross-checker; joined the Jays in October 2002 as assistant to the general manager, promoted to assistant general manager in 2007. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tony LaCava GETTY IMAGES

The San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan, right, defends against the New York Knicks' Robin Lopez on Monday in New York. FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Duncan sets special milestone as Spur

He has won more games with the Spurs than any other NBA player with one team, yet Tim Duncan doesn't exactly know what they want from him.

With LaMarcus Aldridge on board and Kawhi Leonard's game blossoming, Duncan isn't sure what his role is.

"I'm still trying to figure that out," he said. "I'm not really sure what it is yet, but I'm trying to figure it out."

He and the Spurs are winning while they learn.

Aldridge scored 19 points, Leonard had 18 points and 14 rebounds and San Antonio beat the New York Knicks 94-84 on Monday night to give Duncan a milestone victory.

Duncan had 16 points, 10 rebounds and six assists in his NBA-record 954th victory with one team. He passed Hall of Fame point guard John Stockton, who went 953-551 with the Utah Jazz. Duncan, in his 19th season, is 954-381.

Tony Parker also finished with 16 points, but the days of he and Duncan carrying the offence are mostly gone now.

"I think for him and me, sometimes it's going to happen, sometimes not. It's just that we have to do the little stuff," Parker said. "Make sure we play defence, stop our guy and for me personally, running the team, and for Timmy, get the board and stuff like that, blocking shots, and Timmy's always been doing that anyways."

Carmelo Anthony scored 19 points for the Knicks but struggled to just 4-of-17 shooting. Anthony was coming off a season-best 37 points on Saturday in a victory at Washington. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

954
Tim Duncan won his 954th game with the same team, the San Antonio Spurs

NFL IN BRIEF

Report: Kaepernick to take backseat to Gabbert

A person with knowledge of the decision says quarterback Colin Kaepernick has been told he won't start Sunday for the San Francisco 49ers, replaced by backup Blaine Gabbert.

The 49ers (2-6) haven't scored a touchdown in their last two games and three of their last four.

Bay Area Sports Guy first reported the change. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE One-Pot Sweet Potato and Arugula Pasta

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Need a quick, hearty pasta dinner but not up for the mess afterwards? Meet your new best friend.

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

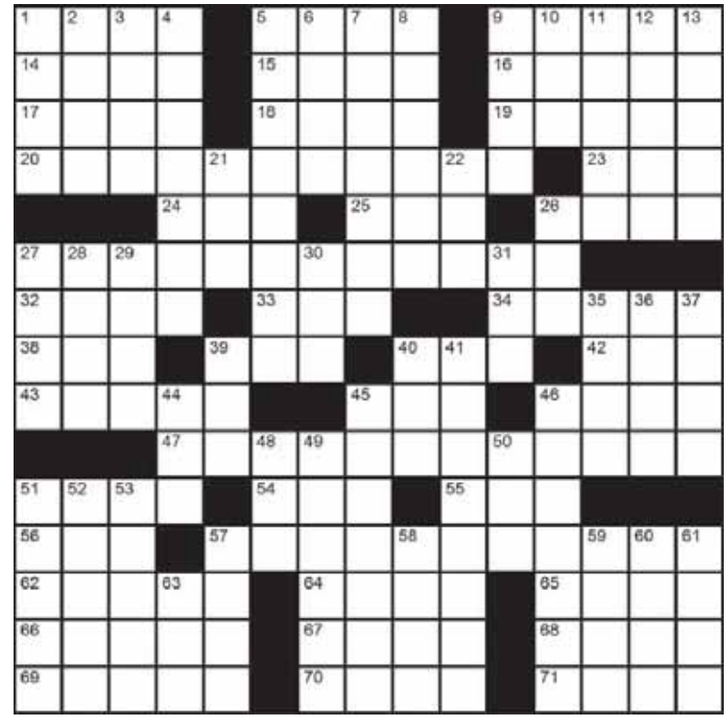
Ingredients
- 500 grams penne pasta
- 8 cups baby arugula
- 1 sweet potato, diced into small cubes
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 shallot, cut into thinly sliced
- 1 sprig of rosemary
- 3 Tbsps of olive oil, plus 1 for garnish
- 1 Tbsp salt
- 6 cups water
- 1/2 cup grated Asiago or Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. Combine penne, arugula, sweet potato, garlic, shallot, rosemary, 2 Tbsp oil, salt and water in a stock pot. Bring to boil over high heat. Cook, stirring pasta frequently, until pasta is cooked al dente and water is nearly evaporated, about 10 minutes.
2. Remove pot from heat and take out the rosemary stem. Stir in the last tablespoon of oil, cheese and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with another sprinkle of cheese.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Serving of mushy food
5. Legis. meeting
9. Moon-related
14. Bear of cartoons
15. __ Wyck (1941 book by Victoria artist Emily Carr)
16. Purpose
17. Daybreak, in verse
18. Twelvemonth
19. Ancient water nymph
20. Modern way to potentially meet a mate: 2 wds.
23. Lucky number, ancient Rome style
24. "__, _ don't." (Retort to "Yes, you do.")
25. Figure skater Ms. Babilonia
26. __ off (Repel)
27. Thrift store with locations in Canada: 2 wds.
32. "What's __ for me?": 2 wds.
33. Earlier than now
34. Empire of Mexico
38. Goose, in Gaspe
39. McSteamy and McDreamy, e.g.
40. Mata Hari, for one
42. Mr. Holbrook
43. "Party Rock Anthem" duo
45. Me: French
46. Unadorned
47. Recently released Drake single: 2 wds.
51. Shrub
54. Come in first
55. Dove's murmur
56. And so forth, for short
57. Canadian director of Adele's "Hello" music video: 2 wds.
62. Broadcaster
64. Nylons hue
65. Currency in Chile
66. Going-under-water gear
67. Droops
68. At all?
69. Certain cat
70. Hot to __
71. "Oh, give me a home where the Buffalo __..."

DOWN
1. Rep-doing facilities
2. Ribbon's bow part
3. Monster
4. Pesto's one-of-some ingredient: 2 wds.
5. Parachutist
6. Zeno of __ (Ancient Greek philosopher)
7. City in a Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan romantic comedy
8. Soap Opera, for one
9. Breather's need
10. Steve Miller Band song: "Living in the _-_-_"
11. Gullible
12. "Encore!"
13. Made over
21. Deer's mom
22. Ms. Peeples
26. "That '70s Show" character played by Wilmer Valderrama
27. Played-with-a-bow instrument
28. Cartooning, curtly
29. Poet's 'willingly'
30. U.S. tax bureau
31. Marcia __ Harden
35. Spicy cuisine
36. Garner
37. Horsefly
39. Ski-__
40. "__ of the Mask" (2005)
41. Dessert component that needs to be filled: 2 wds.
44. Ohh's kin
45. Small vehicle
46. Television actor's mistake
48. Ex-airline
49. Most happening-right-now television broadcast, say
50. Physique, for short
51. Creature
52. Mohawk Valley city in New York
53. Pre-surgery cleanse
57. Skeleton snapshot
58. Consequently
59. Prefix that means 'To the left'
60. Aboard the ship
61. Benchmark
63. __ tide

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You have pushed yourself hard and may need to slow down a bit. Today's Venus-Mars union encourages you to spend less time at work and more time with the people you love — and one very special person in particular.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You think you can take on the world and win. Confidence is a wonderful thing, and with your ruler Venus on good terms with dynamic Mars today nothing is beyond you. Go for it!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Keep lines of communication open. You don't have to pretend that you like certain people but you do have to work with them and that means you have to talk to them too.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
It will be easy to get your message across today. The people you deal with seem much more receptive. The only danger is that once you start talking you may not be able to stop!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Be practical where money is concerned. Cosmic activity in the financial area of your chart warns you could give too much away. Cut back on your spending a bit and on your generosity a lot.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The union of Venus and Mars in your sign means you will be a lot more assertive but also that you will be able to charm other people to give you whatever it is you desire.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Assess your life in depth. Some conclusions you reach will surprise you. You may see yourself as a thinking person but it is your emotions you should pay more attention to now.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may have to give up on something that is never going to work but there is no need to feel bad about it. New opportunities will present themselves over the next few weeks.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will no longer be content to play a minor or supporting role at work. The fact is you have more talent in your little finger than many of your colleagues have in their whole bodies, so make sure you get noticed.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will find it easier to understand why certain people think and act the way they do. It takes all sorts to make a world and you have no more right to demand that they be different than they have to demand it of you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is nothing to fear but fear itself. Of course, it is easier to say that than to believe, but if you face each challenge calmly you may be surprised by how easily you cope.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You must decide whether or not you are going to commit to a partnership of a personal or professional nature. With Venus and Mars on your side you are sure to make the right call.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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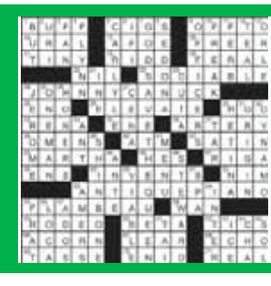

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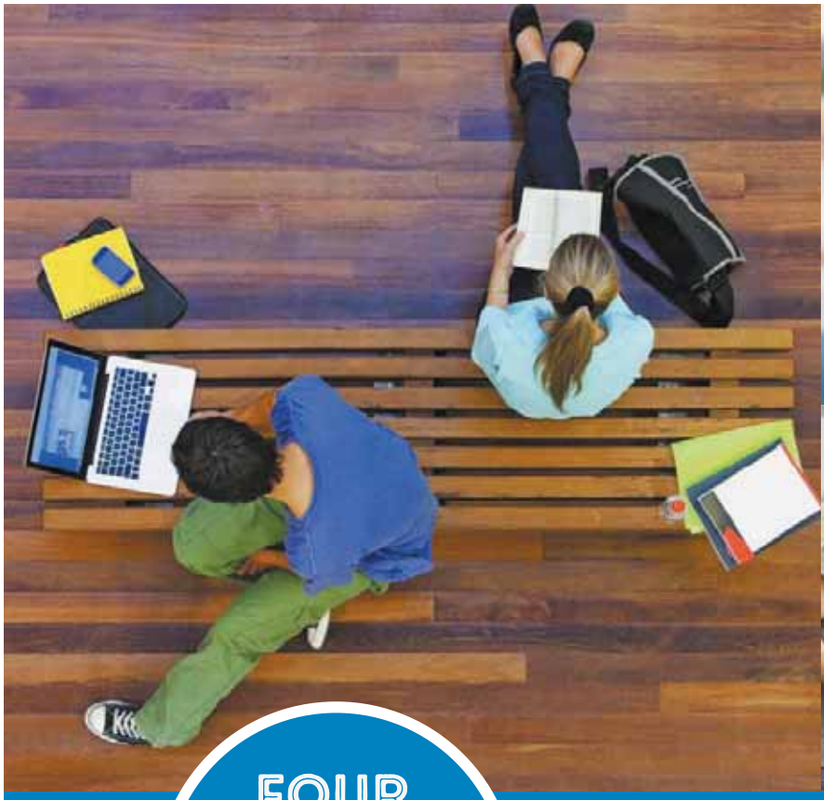

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